DEMONSTRATION OF THE WORLD WIDE WEB HOMEPAGE
FOR NOAA NESDIS LIBRARY SEATTLE

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ABSTRACT: A newly developed World Wide Web server for the NOAA NESDIS Library in Seattle was demonstrated. The homepage is a search gateway to the data and information resources in the Library and on the World Wide Web. Mosaic serves as a graphical user interface to a variety of documents, lists, databases, and desktop services in the NOAA Library Seattle. It also functions as a browser to reach and explore other sites on the Web.

The content of the homepage is directed toward the research requirements and professional interests on marine and atmospheric scientists. It is built in a plain and simple style and uses language that is clear and understandable to users. The best way to experience the homepage is to get on the Internet and use it from your site. The URL (Uniform Resource Locator) is: http://www.wrc.noaa.gov/nesdis/Library/libhome.html.

A newly developed World Wide Web server for the NOAA NESDIS Library in Seattle was demonstrated at the IAMSLIC 20th Annual Conference, “Building Global Connections”, October 9-13, 1994 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The homepage is a search gateway to the data and information resources in the Library and on the World Wide Web. Mosaic serves as a graphical user interface to a variety of documents, lists, databases and desktop services in the NOAA Library Seattle. It also functions as a browser to reach and explore other sites on the Web.

The content of the homepage is directed toward the research requirements and professional interests of marine and atmospheric scientists and administrators. It is built in a plain and simple style and uses language that is clear and understandable to users. Local researchers participated in the building of the home page and the text and configuration are a distillation of their language and culture.

The structure of the homepage follows the basic order in which research is done. In the first element, Library News and Information, a user learns about the services and policies of the Library. Here is a place for announcements, a new books lists, a mission statement and any other organizational information the library wishes to display.

The second element, Current Tables of Contents, addresses a researcher’s need to keep up with this week’s literature. Here users can browse a list of journals routed by the Library, choose a selection of titles, and register to have tables of contents of this week’s journals delivered to their desktops. This element also points to UnCover’s Reveal service which provides electronic delivery of current contents.
Researcher Tools offers a place to search bibliographies with abstracts, citation indexes, and library catalogs. This element is a search gateway to reference tools at other web sites which are considered helpful and relevant to our users' needs. We plan to enhance this site by providing campus users with desktop access to citation indexes in the marine and atmospheric sciences.

Document Delivery, the fourth element, completes the research cycle and provides a place for users to request materials which they have located in the course of the search process. Forms are provided in this part of the page which make it possible for a user to request a photocopy of a journal article, borrow a book that is not in the NOAA Library Seattle or request an extension on an interlibrary loan. Mosaic was used to create in-house forms which can be filled out and transmitted to the Library electronically.

Other Web Sites is the newest element on the homepage. Here is a place to view oceanography, meteorology and marine biology related servers as well as homepages at the Western Regional Center in Seattle. An assortment of web sites are listed here which provide links to other servers. The idea here is to list a handful of sources and let the user browse through the Internet from these points of entry to other sites of interest.

Ask a Librarian is the final element on the home page. Here is a place where users can communicate with the Library staff, and let us know what they are thinking. The NOAA Library Seattle Information Server belongs to the community and its purpose is to serve their information needs in the best way possible. Feedback from our users will help us make our information server timely, effective and accurate.

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